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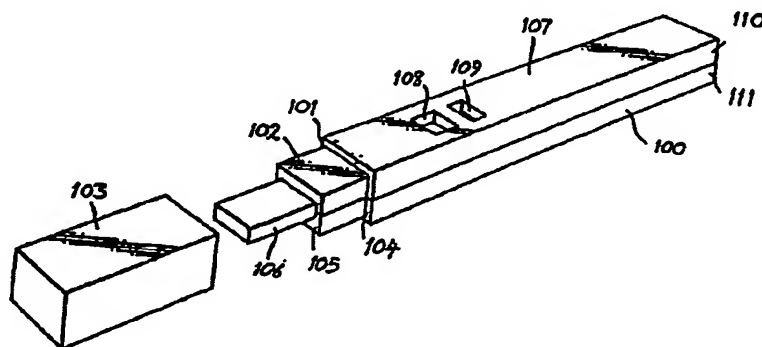
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(54) Title: ASSAY DEVICE AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a test device for detecting the presence or absence of a selected analyte in a liquid sample. The test device includes a reagent member, a porous carrier, and a detection zone. The reagent member includes a body, a first labeled binding reagent specific for a first binding site of the analyte and a second labeled binding reagent specific for a second binding site of the analyte. The first specific binding site and second binding sites are different. The reagent body is adapted to retain the first and second labeled specific binding reagents when the body and the first and second labeled binding reagents are dry, and to release them when the body and they are moist. The first and second labeled specific binding reagents are capable of forming a first labeled complex with the analyte with the complex including the first labeled specific binding reagent, the analyte, and the second labeled specific binding reagent. The detection zone includes a first porous barrier having an average pore size larger than the diameter of the larger diameter of the first or second labeled specific binding reagent, but smaller than the diameter of the first labeled complex. The detection zone may be a section of the porous carrier or may be separate from and in fluid communication with the porous carrier. The reagent member, porous carrier, and detection zone are arranged so that a fluid applied to the test device would travel sequentially from the reagent member to the porous carrier and to the detection zone. The test device is typically dry before use and moist during use.